

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action of December 9, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 29 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by LAKHANI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,757,285); allows claims 1-28 and 41-44; and objects to claims 30-39 as allowable if rewritten into independent form.

By way of this amendment, Applicants cancel claim 30 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 29 and 33 to improve form. Claims 1-29, 31, and 33-44 remain pending.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 1-28 and 41-44 are allowable over the art of record and that claims 30-39 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 29 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by LAKHANI et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to the claims, as now amended.

Applicants have amended independent claim 29 herewith to include the features of claim 30, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 29 is allowable over the art of record.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by LAKHANI et al. be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 40 depends from claim 29. Therefore, this claim is allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons given above with respect to claim 29.

PATENT
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/768,068
Attorney Docket No. RIC00018

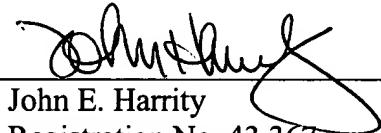
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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